

**MICHIGAN SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM**  
**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**CURRICULUM, BIRTH – GRADE 12/EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PARENTING PROGRAMS**  
**March 2001 Update**

**Lindy Buch, Supervisor, Renée De Mars -Johnson, Coordinator**

**Early Childhood Consultants**

**Carol Breen, Cheryl Hall, Maria Kingsley, Connie Robinson, Barbara Roth-Grondin,  
Eileen Storer, Jacqueline Wood**



Please welcome Jacqueline Wood, the new consultant with Early Childhood and Parenting Programs. Jackie comes to us from the Division of Child Day Care Licensing, bringing to our programs a wealth of experience working on behalf of children. Some of you may remember Jackie as an Early Childhood Consultant with the Michigan School Readiness Program in the early 1990's. Jackie's lead responsibility is administration of the ASAP-PIE program. "I am excited to be involved in ASAP-PIE, especially with its collaborative focus. When families and local communities come together in a truly collaborative way, they can become such a strong asset in fostering the child's ability to succeed in life. I am very much looking forward to meeting each of you in the months ahead."

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

The following Intermediate School Districts are recipients of the Parent Involvement and Education Program (ASAP-PIE) grants serving all families of children birth – 5 years old in a collaborative effort with parents, public schools and community agencies and resources.

Allegan County ISD  
Branch ISD  
Calhoun ISD  
Charlevoix-Emmet ISD  
Copper Country ISD  
Dickinson-Iron ISD  
Eaton ISD  
Genesee ISD

Ingham ISD  
Ionia County ISD  
Lewis Cass ISD  
Macomb ISD  
Mecosta-Osceola ISD  
Midland County Educational Service Agency  
Saginaw ISD  
Shiawassee RESD

St. Clair County ISD  
St. Joseph County ISD  
Traverse Bay Area ISD  
Van Buren ISD  
Washtenaw ISD  
Wexford-Missaukee ISD

**MID-YEAR REPORTS DUE MARCH 1, 2001**

Mid-Year packets were mailed on February 1, 2001. The number of scantron forms sent was based on the number of teachers estimated as a result of reports on the 2000-2001 Michigan School Readiness Program Application Project Fact Sheet. As the number of classrooms did not give an exact count of the number of teachers, many districts did not receive the total number of forms necessary to complete the report. It is imperative that all Michigan School Readiness Program teachers complete a Mid-Year Report on each classroom. High/Scope Educational Research Foundation's Evaluation Project may be compromised if reports are missing. Districts that did not receive the correct number of Mid-Year report forms should contact Cynthia Grostick at (517) 241-4294. Additional forms will be mailed immediately.

**COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RESOURCES ASSESSMENT (CNRA) DUE!!**

The Pre-application for State Aid funds, the Community Needs and Resources Assessment (CNRA) was due February 15, 2001. Applications are no longer mailed. The CNRA is available by accessing our web site at [www.state.mi.us/mde/off/staa/earlychild/index.htm](http://www.state.mi.us/mde/off/staa/earlychild/index.htm) If you have not completed and mailed the CNRA, you must do so immediately. Please contact your consultant if you have questions or concerns.

## 2001-2002 SPRING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SESSIONS

**Participants should confirm attendance by Friday, April 20, 2001.**

Technical Assistance sessions have been scheduled for the following dates and times:

### Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Holiday Inn of Gaylord  
833 West Main Street  
Gaylord  
(517) 732-2431

### Friday, April 27, 2001

Holiday Inn-Southfield  
26555 Telegraph Road  
Southfield  
(248) 353-7700

### Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Holiday Inn West  
7501 W. Saginaw Highway  
Lansing  
(517) 627-3211

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 12:00 noon Participants will choose from one AM session:

- Michigan School Readiness Program State Aid for NEW grantees
- Even Start Family Literacy Program
- Child Care and Development fund (CCDF) Three-Year-Old Program

**Competitive Program representatives should bring their lunches to a session from noon-1:00PM: *Reporting Expenditures And Requesting Funds Via The Internet***

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. participants will choose from one concurrent session:

- Michigan School Readiness Program Competitive
- CCDF School-Age Child Care Program
- The Circle Game – Using Curriculum to Guide the Development of High-Quality Early Childhood Programs

It is anticipated that applications will be posted on the Department of Education web site:

<http://www.state.mi.us/mde/off/staa/earlychild/index.htm> on or before March 30, 2001. Copies of the grant applications will also be available at the above sessions. Registration forms will soon be available on the web site.

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## CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### **The Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MIAEYC) Early Childhood**

**Conference** will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and Grand Rapids Convention Center, Grand Rapids, March 29-31, 2001. For more information, please call (888) 666-2392.

### **Healthy Children/Healthy Staff: Controlling Communicable Illness in Child Care and Early Childhood Settings**

Teleconferences will be held at eighteen locations across the state on April 27-28, 2001. On Friday, April 27, the first seminar's focus will be for school nurses, Head Start health coordinators, local health department staff, and 4C trainers. Locations on Friday are East Lansing, Marquette, Gaylord, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Battle Creek and Flint. On Saturday, April 28, the second teleconference will focus on information for early childhood teachers, directors, child care staff, and college early childhood instructors. Locations on Saturday are Marquette, the Soo, Traverse City, Alpena, University Center, Muskegon, Grand Rapids, Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor, Detroit, Macomb and East Lansing. The cost each day is \$18. For registration information, please call (800) 950-4171.

**Literacy In The Early Years – Growing Readers and Writers** will be held Saturday, May 12, 2001 in Southfield. Keynote speaker for this conference is Elizabeth Sulzby. For more information go to the CIERA web site at <http://www.ciera.org/>.

## ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO TALK

Quiet observation of children as they work and play can be a powerful encouragement for them to speak! It has been suggested that the greatest percentage of talking in classrooms is the teacher talking. Preschool children become conversational with support and encouragement during their work and play. Joining children at their level, using silent observation and understanding what the child is doing provides the child time to continue his pursuit and pause or comment on what he or she is interested in. What did the child say? What materials is he/she using? Young children who are highly involved in an activity they have chosen may stop the activity or treat as an intrusion the adult's attempt to strike up a conversation. Listen for comments from the children and respond to those comments. Adults are often invited into conversation with children when using observation and support rather than offering direction. Once the adult is invited into a dialogue with children, it is important to resist taking control of the conversation. "Listening for natural conversational openings, offering personal comments and acknowledgments, and asking questions sparingly are ways adults can help children reflect on what they are doing in their own words." Mary Hohmann

"A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child." Anonymous